Death of suspect of theft in police custody

3180. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a suspect in a theft case died in Delhi Police custody sometime in the third week of September, 1986;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the circumstances leading to the death of the suspect in police custody and if so, what is the outcome thereof stating the action taken by Government in the matter;

(c) the number of cases in which deaths of suspects in police custody were reported in various parts of the country including Delhi during the last three years; year-wise;

(d) the number of cases in which deaths of the suspects due to third degree methods used by the police to extract confessions was established in the country; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent the use of third degree methods and to make the police force more humane during the course of investigations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An inquest was conducted by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (South Delhi). He has submitted his report on the 2nd December, 1986 and has held 3 police officials and an Assistant Public Prosecutor responsible for the death. The concerned SI Ranvir Singh, in whose custody the suspect died had been placed under suspension earlier.

(c) and (d) Police being a State subject, the Central Government do not receive any reports of deaths in police custody in various parts of the country. The figures with regard to Delhi are indicated below:-

Year	No. of deaths reported in police custody	Findings of Inquests
1983	6	Police officials held responsible in 3 out of the 6 cases.
1984	3	No police official found responsible.
1985	5	Do.
1986 (upto 31-10-86)	5	Out of the 2 cases where in quest has been completed, no police official has been held responsible in one case, and in the other, a case has been registered against the concerned Police officials.

(e) The Government of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that the police forces always behave in a lawful and humane manner and that alleged cases of police excesses should be taken notice of seriously and dealt with firmly wherever they occur.